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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 146
By Burks

A RESOLUTION To honor and congratulate the men's and women's basketball teams of Tennessee Technological University on winning the 2000-01 OVC Championships.

WHEREAS, The Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those successful athletes and teams that, through their magnificent exploits, bring honor to the State of Tennessee and serve as exceptional ambassadors of this State; and

WHEREAS, The men's and women's basketball teams of Tennessee Technological University are deserving of our admiration and praise; during their remarkable 2000-01 seasons, they each enjoyed outstanding campaigns and earned the Ohio Valley Conference championship; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee Tech made history by becoming the first school in the conference to claim both the men's and women's basketball championships during the same year; and

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WHEREAS, The men's team surpassed all expectations except their own in earning their program's first title in sixteen years; they compiled an impressive record of twenty wins and nine losses, including thirteen victories against only three losses in the conference play; and

WHEREAS, The women's team continued their program's tradition of dominance by claiming their fourth consecutive league championship; they overpowered their league competition in compiling an outstanding record of twenty-four wins and only six losses, including fifteen victories and a single loss during the conference campaign; and

WHEREAS, These accomplished teams achieved unparalleled success through hard work and tremendous dedication that allowed them to utilize their vast individual talents; they worked together as a team to attain their common goals, and that teamwork presented an opportunity for their individual talents to shine; and

WHEREAS, On the men's team, Larrie Smith, Leigh Gayden, and Brent Jolly were selected by the Ohio Valley Conference as members of the All-Conference Team; among the women, Janet Holt, Allison Clark and Misty Garrett earned All-Conference recognition; Andrea Brown was chosen for the All-Freshman squad, and Miss Holt was honored as Player of the Year; and

WHEREAS, The most impressive honor won by any Tennessee Tech basketball player was the title of Ohio Valley Conference Champions; the men's team included: Senior Larrie Smith; Juniors DeAntoine Beasley, Adonis Hart, Damien Kinloch, Damien Perkins, Brad Walker, and Joey Westmoreland; Sophomores Marcus Cameron, Trey Ferguson, Leigh Gayden, Brent Jolly, and Rusty Strange; and Freshmen Cameron Crisp, Ahmad Richardson, and Jason Harrell; the women's team was comprised of: Seniors Leah Bird, Rachel Gobble, and Lesha Jones; Juniors Allison Clark, Misty Garrett, and Janet Holt; and Freshmen Crystal Andrews, Janice Barr, Andrea Brown, Stephanie Patterson, and Jennifer Wilhelm; and

WHEREAS, These talented athletes achieved the utmost success under the astute leadership of their coaches, who laid the foundation by sharing their great love and knowledge

of basketball with the players; the Eagles were guided by Coach Jeff Lebo, 2000-01 OVC Men's Basketball Coach of the Year, with the help of Assistant Coaches John Shulman, Tracy Garrick, and Dave Lebo; the Eaglettes were led by Coach Bill Worrell with the aid of Assistant Coaches Amy Brown, Roger Castle, and Niya Butts; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Bob Bell, President of Tennessee Technological University, greatly contributed to the basketball teams' success by providing his fullest support to the athletic programs; and

WHEREAS, The basketball players of Tennessee Technological University epitomize all that is good in the ideal NCAA student-athlete; they have achieved notable success on the basketball court while displaying the utmost character both inside and outside of the gymnasium; and

WHEREAS, The stalwart dedication, strong work ethic, and many talents displayed by these student-athletes has not only led to championship seasons but will also surely bode well for their future success; and

WHEREAS, This General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud the Tennessee Tech Eagles and Eaglettes for their success on the court and for serving as excellent examples of the tremendous quality of the young men and women of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we congratulate the Eagles and Eaglettes of Tennessee Technological University on their championship seasons, join with the school's administration, faculty, staff, students, and fans in celebrating Tennessee Tech's becoming the first OVC school to win men's and women's basketball championships in the same year, and wish them every continued success, both on and off the basketball court.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.